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The Case



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Chapter 1 by Elizabeth

I woke up at 5 A.M., which is pretty normal for me. The problem was that my hair was a mess, my clothes were wrinkled. I looked like a maniac! Oh, I am sorry. My name is Blossom Silva. I have triples, 2 girls and 1 boy named Cherry, Peaches and William. My husband's name is Thiago. His parents named him after the Brazilian soccer player.

I went downstairs to go make some breakfast. When I'm in the kitchen, I see Cherry, William and Peaches making breakfast. Not again, I say in my head. I was remembering the last time they made breakfast. They had made burned toast, over salted eggs with a bit of egg shells in it and a watermelon and carrot milkshake. Then again, they were only 4 years old back then, but now they're 6 years old.

Cherry was the first one to see me. "Hi Mommy," said she said in soft, quiet voice. "We're still getting breakfast ready," William and Peaches said, looking happy to see me. I just nodded. Thiago came down the stairs. "William, Peaches and Cherry did you make breakfast," Thiago asked. All the kids nodded.

I looked at the table and I was just blown away. The table was set! Can you believe that my kids set the table? I don't know why, but I took a picture of the table with my phone. (I have an iPhone 5, if you were wondering.) "Mom, can you help us make breakfast? Dad, please fix the

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Peaches and William laughed too. After a few seconds later, Thiago started laughing too, and then went upstairs to fix the toilet.

Cherry told me that there was only going to be one dish for breakfast and that I was going to make the drink. I went to help them first. "We want to make chopped cucumber, pear, and fennel salad," William said, eager to cook. I looked at the recipe.

Cut 2 pounds cucumbers into 3/4-inch cubes. Place in a resealable plastic bag. Place fronds from 1 large fennel bulb cut into 1/2-inch squares in a resealable plastic bag. Place fennel in a large bowl of water with a squeeze of fresh lemon juice to prevent browning; cover. Chill cucumber, fennel, and fronds overnight. Combine cucumber, drained fennel, 2 pears, peeled, quartered, cored, cut into 1/2-inch pieces (about 2 cups), and 1/2 cup pomegranate seeds in a large bowl. Add 3/4 cup Granny Smith Apple Cider Vinaigrette; toss to coat. Add more vinaigrette, if desired. Season to taste with kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper. Garnish with 1/4 cup pomegranate seeds. It can serve up to 8 people.

"This better taste as good as it looks," I said, after we made it.

I put the dish on the table and thought about what kind of milkshake I should make. "Hey, Mommy! My friend made a peanut butter and anchovy milkshake once! Can we make it," asked William. I almost threw up when I heard the idea. William probably could tell that the answer was a very clear no because he walked away looking upset. I decided to make their favorite milkshake. It was called the Fruit Breakfast Milkshake.

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